

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1823

INFO AMCONSUL MEDAN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 4654

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, ID

SUBJECT: GOLKAR MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT RECALLED

REF: A. JAKARTA A-58; B. JAKARTA 2452

1. SUMMARY: AS EXPECTED, MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT NOW UNDER DETENTION FOR POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT IN JAN 15 RIOTS HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM OFFICE IN DECISION REPORTED BY PRESS APRIL 17. ALL THREE WERE MEMBERS OF QUASI-GOVERNMENT PARTY GOLKAR WHO WERE ASSOCIATED WITH FORMER PRESIDENTIAL ASSISTANT ALI MURTOPO'S ORGANIZATION (OPSUS). INDICATIONS ARE THAT THE OPSUS-CREATED POLITICAL MACHINE WHICH WAS THE CORE OF GOLKAR REMAINS UNDER SHADOW OF ARMY SUSPICION AND MAY BE HIT BY MORE DRASTIC PURGES. END SUMMARY.

2. ACCORDING PRESS PRESIDENT SUHARTO HAS TERMINATED SERVICE OF THREE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT (DPR) AND ONE MEMBER OF CONGRESS (MPR). INDIVIDUALS ARE GOLKAR MP'S RACHMAN TOLLENG AND SUMARNO, UNITY DEVELOPMENT (ISLAMIC) MP K H SYAFI' MARZUKI, AND GOLKAR MEMBER OF CONGRESS
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RAMADI. ACCORDING VERSION IN DAILY "SINAR HARAPAN"

MARZUKI TERMINATED "HONORABLY" AND HIS REPLACEMENT OVZZMC SZCIK WORD "HONORABLY" CONSPICUOUSLY ABSENT IN CASES OF OTHERS AND NO REPLACEMENTS ANNOUNCED. SAME BRIEF ACCOUNT IN VIRTUALLY ALL PAPERS INCLUDING ARMY "BERITA YUDHA" DID NOT REVEAL SOURCE (BUT IT ALMOST CERTAINLY OFFICIAL). STORIES ALSO MADE NO MENTION OF RECALL PROCEDURE WHEREBY ACCORDING TO LAW PARTY LEADERSHIP (NOT PRESIDENT) HAS RIGHT TO REPLACE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT.

2. COMMENT:: SUMARNO, RACHMAN TOLLENG AND RAMADI HAVE ALL BEEN UNDER DETENTION FOR INVOLVEMENT IN JAN 15 RIOTS FOR MORE THAN TWO MONTHS AND THEIR OFFICIAL OUSTER FROM PARLIAMENT NO SURPRISE TO RACHMAN TOLLENG WAS PROMINENT BANDUNG STUDENT ACTIVIST WHO WAS LEADER OF GROUP THAT TED TO COPPERATE WITH ALI MURTOPO'S OPSUS (SPECIAL OPERATIONS STAFF) WITHIN OFFICIAL QQUASI-PARTY GOLKAR (HE IS STILL LISTED AS MEMBER OF ITS CENTRAL LEADERSHIP BOARD) BUT WAS NEVER VERY HAPPY IN HIS COLLABROATIONIST ROLE. SUMARNO IS FORMER SOCIALIST PARTY (PSI) LEADER WHO (ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL SOURCES) HAS CONFESSED UNDER INTER-ROGATION TO BEING LONG-TIME SECRET PKI (COMMUNIST) CELL LEADER. LITTLE KNOWN ABOUT RAMADI EXCEPT THAT HE WAS FORMERLY WITH OLD MURBA PARTY NATIONAL-COMMUNIST), WORKED WITH GOLKAR ISLAMCI FRONT GUPPI AND (ACCORDING ONE UNCONFIRMED REPORT) WAS CLOSE TO FORMER PRESIDENTIAL ASSISTANT ALI MURTOPO. (ISLAMCI MEMBER MARZUKI WHOSE "HONORABLE" RECALL ALSO ANNOUNCED, IS AGING RELIGIOUS LEADER FROM CONSERVATIVE NU FACTION AND HIS RETIREMENT ALMOST CERTAINLY IN NO WAY CONNECTED WITH RIOTS.)

3. THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT ARMY (AND PERHAPS PRESIDENTIAL) DISPLEASURE WITH GOLKAR LEADERSHIP IS TRONG. IF SO, WE MAY SEE FURTHER CHANGES IN GOLKAR PARLIAMENTARY RANKS AND PERHAPS WITHIN ALI MURTOPO'S OPSUS NETWORK AND ITS SATELLITE FRONT GROUPS.
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